



**UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.
09/182,033	10/29/98	BURNS	2391

622208
ROBERTS AND ABOKHAIR
SUITE 1000
11800 SUNRISE VALLEY DRIVE
RESTON VA 20191

LM02/1006

EXAMINER

KAZIMI, H

ART UNIT PAPER NUMBER

2765

DATE MAILED: 10/06/99

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Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks

Office Action Summary

Application No.
09/182,033

Applicant(s)
Burns

Examiner
Hani Kazimi

Group Art Unit
2765



☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on Oct 29, 1998

☐ This action is **FINAL**.

☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11; 453 O.G. 213.

A shortened statutory period for response to this action is set to expire 3 month(s), or thirty days, whichever is longer, from the mailing date of this communication. Failure to respond within the period for response will cause the application to become abandoned. (35 U.S.C. § 133). Extensions of time may be obtained under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a).

Disposition of Claims

☒ Claim(s) 1-22 is/are pending in the application.

Of the above, claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.

☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.

☒ Claim(s) 1-22 is/are rejected.

☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.

☐ Claims _____ are subject to restriction or election requirement.

Application Papers

☒ See the attached Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review, PTO-948.

☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are objected to by the Examiner.

☐ The proposed drawing correction, filed on _____ is ☐ approved ☐ disapproved.

☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.

☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

☐ Acknowledgement is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d).

☐ All ☐ Some* ☐ None of the CERTIFIED copies of the priority documents have been
☐ received.

☐ received in Application No. (Series Code/Serial Number) _____.

☐ received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

*Certified copies not received: _____

☐ Acknowledgement is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e).

Attachment(s)

☒ Notice of References Cited, PTO-892

☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s), PTO-1449, Paper No(s). 2

☐ Interview Summary, PTO-413

☒ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review, PTO-948

☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application, PTO-152

--- SEE OFFICE ACTION ON THE FOLLOWING PAGES ---

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DETAILED ACTION

1. This application has been reviewed. Original claims 1-22 are pending. The rejections cited are as stated below:

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

2. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless --

(e) the invention was described in a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention thereof by the applicant for patent, or on an international application by another who has fulfilled the requirements of paragraphs (1), (2), and (4) of section 371(c) of this title before the invention thereof by the applicant for patent.

3. Claims 1-22 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Fajkowski US Pat. No. 5,905,246.

Claims 1, 8, 14, 21, and 22, Fajkowski discloses a method for electronic processing of discount coupons (abstract) comprising:

reading coupon information with a bar code scanner and sending the coupon information to a data base where the coupon information is attributed to a specific consumer (column 11, lines 9-37, and column 3, line 51 thru column 4, line 14);

scanning information of products chosen by a consumer at a check out register having the capability to identify the consumer in relation to the coupon data base (column 15, lines 11 thru

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column 16, line 11);

reconciling the coupon information with the register information and providing any applicable discount to the consumer at the register (column 4, lines 15-33);

updating the data base to reflect purchases and discounts given at the register (column 4, lines 48-60);

sending the coupon information and register information to a source for reimbursement to vendor (column 5, lines 14-37); and

sending consumer information relating to either purchases, coupons or both to a data center (column 5, lines 14-37).

Claims 2, 9, and 15, Fajkowski discloses access means for a consumer to access the coupon data base to review their account information (column 4, lines 15-33).

Claims 3, 10, and 16, Fajkowski discloses that the access means includes access through the Internet (column 6, lines 20-43).

Claims 4, 11, and 17, Fajkowski discloses access means for the consumer to access their information in the coupon data base at the store (column 4, lines 15-33).

Claims 5, 12, and 18, Fajkowski discloses access means comprises a printout of the information in the coupon data base (column 27, lines 36-67).

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Claims 6, 7, 13, and 19, Fajkowski discloses the utilization of a code scanner to enter the coupon information into the coupon data base (column 11, lines 9-37, and column 3, line 51 thru column 4, line 14).

Claim 20, Fajkowski discloses that the coupon database is shared by more than one store (column 23, lines 20-25, column 26, lines 51-60, and column 28, line 51 thru column 29, line 4).

Conclusion

4. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

- a) Larson et al. US Patent 5,708,782 Jan. 13, 1998.
- b) West et al. US Patent 5,845,259 Dec 1, 1998.
- c) Jovicic et al. US Patent 5,855,007 Dec. 29, 1998.
- d) Leonard et al. US Patent 5,903,874 May 11, 1999.
- e) Adrienne W. Fawcett, Trading Scissors for Modems, "The search to determine the redeeming value of online coupon delivery", pp 2-3, June 7, 1995.
- f) NetValue Inc. "Welcome to netValue, Inc.", "Brinding it All Home", pp 1-2, October 21, 1997.

5. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Hani Kazimi whose telephone number is (703) 305-1061. The examiner can normally be reached Monday-Friday from 8:30 AM to 5:00 PM.

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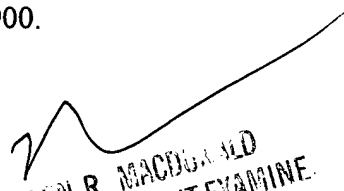
If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Allen MacDonald, can be reached at (703) 305-9708.

The fax number for Formal or Official faxes to Technology Center 2700 is (703) 308-9051 or 9052. Draft or Informal faxes for this Art Unit can be submitted to (703) 308-5357.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application should be directed to the Group receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 305-3900.

Hani.Kazimi

September 30, 1999


ALLEN R. MACDONALD
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINEE